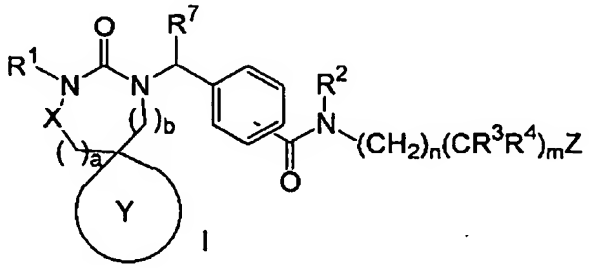
Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A compound represented by formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

one of a and b is 1 and the other is 0;

X is CH_2;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) C_{1-15} alkyl optionally substituted with up to five groups as follows: (a) 1-3 OH groups; (b) 1 oxo group; (c) 1-5 halo groups, up to a perhaloalkyl group; (d) 1-3 C_{1-6} alkoxy groups optionally substituted with up to five halo or a perhaloalkoxy, or up to 2 hydroxy or CO_2R^6 groups; (e) 1-2 CO_2R^6groups and (f) 1-2 phenyl groups, each optionally substituted as follows: 1-5 halo groups, (2) 1-2 OH, CO_2R^6, CN or $S(O)_pR^5$ groups, and (3) 1-2 C_{1-6} alkyl or alkoxy groups, each optionally substituted with 1-5 halo, up to perhaloalkyl, and 1-2 OH or CO_2R^6 groups; and

(2) ~~aryl or heteroaryl~~phenyl, optionally substituted as set forth below:

(a) 1-3 hydroxy groups; (b) 1-5 halo groups; (c) 1-3 C_{1-15} alkyl or alkoxy groups, each optionally substituted with up to five halo and 1-2 hydroxy or CO_2R^6 groups; (d) 1-2 CO_2R^6, CN, $S(O)_pR^5$ or $CONR^9R^{10}$ groups; (e) NR^9R^{10}; (f) SCF_3; (g) phenyl, heteroaryl or O-phenyl, said group being optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups, 1-2 OH, CO_2R^6, CN or $S(O)_nR^5$ groups, and 1-2 C_{1-6} alkyl or alkoxy groups, each optionally substituted with 1-5 halo, up to perhaloalkyl, and 1-2 OH or CO_2R^6 groups;

R^2 represents H or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^3 represents H or F;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H, F and OH;

or R^3 and R^4 are taken in combination and represent an oxo group;

R^5 represents a C_{1-10}alkyl group;

R^6 represents H or C_{1-10}alkyl, optionally substituted with OH, OC_{1-6}alkyl, CO_2H, CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, and 1-3 halo groups;

R^7 represents H, CO_2R^6, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with OH, OC_{1-6}alkyl, CO_2R^6 or 1-3 halo groups;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from H and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{10} is H or is independently selected from:

(a) C_{1-10}alkyl, optionally substituted with OH, OC_{1-6}alkyl, CO_2H, CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, and 1-3 halo groups; (b) aryl or C_{1-6} alkaryl, each optionally substituted with 1-5 halos and 1-3 members selected from the group consisting of: CN, OH, C_{1-10}alkyl and OC_{1-10} alkyl, said alkyl and alkoxy being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo; (c) heterocycle, or C_{1-6}alkyl-heterocycle, optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups and 1-3 groups selected from: oxo, C_{1-10}alkyl and OC_{1-10} alkyl, said alkyl and alkoxy being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo; and (d) heteroaryl or C_{1-6}alkyl-heteroaryl, optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups and 1-3 groups selected from: C_{1-10}alkyl and OC_{1-10} alkyl, said alkyl and alkoxy being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo;

R^{11} is independently selected from the group consisting of:

(a) C_{1-10}alkyl, optionally substituted with OH, OC_{1-6}alkyl, CO_2H, CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, and 1-3 halo groups; (b) aryl or C_{1-6} alkaryl, each optionally substituted with 1-5 halos and 1-3 members selected from the group consisting of: CN, OH, C_{1-10}alkyl and OC_{1-10} alkyl, said alkyl and alkoxy being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo; (c) heterocycle, or C_{1-6}alkyl-heterocycle, optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups and 1-3 groups selected from: oxo, C_{1-10}alkyl and OC_{1-10} alkyl, said alkyl and alkoxy being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo; and (d) heteroaryl or C_{1-6}alkyl-heteroaryl, optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups and 1-3 groups selected from: C_{1-10}alkyl and OC_{1-10} alkyl, said alkyl and alkoxy being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo;

~~Y represents a 4 to 8 membered spirocarbocyclic ring,~~

~~said spirocarbocyclic ring being optionally substituted on either carbon or nitrogen atoms with up to three groups independently selected as follows:~~

~~(a) 1-2 phenyl groups, each being optionally substituted with one to five groups independently selected from the group consisting of: (1) 1-3 hydroxy groups; (2) 1-5 halo groups; (3) 1-3 C_{1-8}alkyl or alkoxy groups, each being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo or 1-2 OH or CO_2R^6 groups, and (4) 1-2 CO_2R^6, CN, $S(O)_pR^5$, $CONR^9R^{10}$ or NO_2 groups;~~

~~(b) C_{1-10} alkyl optionally substituted with 1-5 groups selected as follows: (i) 1-3 hydroxy groups; (ii) 1 oxo group; (iii) 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo; (iv) 1-3 C_{1-10} alkoxy groups,~~

~~optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo, or 1-2 hydroxy or CO_2R^6 groups; (v) 1-2 CO_2R^6 groups; (vi) phenyl, optionally substituted with one to five groups independently selected from the group consisting of: (a) 1-3 hydroxy groups; (b) 1-5 halo groups; (c) 1-3 C_{1-6} alkyl or alkoxy groups, optionally substituted with 1-5 halo groups up to perhalo, or 1-2 hydroxy or CO_2R^6 groups; (d) 1-2 CO_2R^6; CN, $S(O)_pR^5$, $CONR^9R^{10}$ or NO_2 groups; (e) 1-2 phenyl rings, each of which is optionally substituted as follows: 1-3 C_{1-10} alkyl or alkoxy groups, each being further optionally substituted with 1-5 halo up to perhalo, or 1-2 hydroxy or CO_2R^6 groups;~~

~~said spirocarbocyclic or spiroheterocyclic ring being further optionally substituted on a carbon atom with a member selected from the group consisting of:~~
~~(a) $NR^8C(O)NR^9R^{10}$; (b) $NR^8CO_2R^{11}$; (c) $NR^8C(O)R^{11}$; (d) NR^9R^{10};~~
~~(e) $NR^8SO_2R^{11}$; (f) $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$; (g) $C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ and (h) $OC(O)NR^9R^{10}$;~~

~~and when said ring contains a nitrogen atom, said ring being further optionally substituted on the nitrogen atom with a member selected from the group consisting of:~~
~~(a) $C(O)NR^9R^{10}$; (b) CO_2R^{11}; (c) $C(O)R^{11}$; and (d) SO_2R^{11};~~

Y represents a spirocyclohexyl ring that is substituted with a C_{1-4} alkyl group that is optionally substituted with a phenyl ring;

m and p are independently selected from 0, 1 and 2, and n is an integer from 0 to 6,

when both m and n are zero, Z is selected from 5-tetrazolyl and 5-(2-oxo-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl) and when one of m and n is other than zero, Z is selected from the group consisting of: CO_2R^6, with R^6 as defined above, 5-tetrazolyl and 5-(2-oxo-1,3,4-oxadiazolyl).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from: OH, halo, C_{1-3} alkoxy, halo-C_{1-3}alkoxy and phenyl, said phenyl being optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups, SO_2R^5, and 1-2 C_{1-3}alkyl or alkoxy groups optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups, and

(2) ~~aryl~~phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; 1-2 C_{1-3}alkyl or alkoxy groups, each optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; $-NR^9R^{10}$ wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H or methyl; SCF_3 and heteroaryl.

Claim 3 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 2 wherein:

R^1 represents phenyl optionally substituted with 1-2 groups selected from Br, Cl; trifluoromethyl and trifluoromethoxy.

Claims 4-7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A compound in accordance with claim ~~7~~1 wherein: Y represents a spirocyclohexyl group substituted with a t-butyl group at the 4 position.

Claim 9 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein: R^2 is H or C_{1-3}alkyl.

Claim 10 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 9 wherein: R^2 represents H.

Claim 11 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein: R^7 represents H or methyl.

Claim 12 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 11 wherein R^7 represents H.

Claim 13 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein: n and m represent 0; and Z represents a 5-tetrazolyl group.

Claim 14 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein: m represents 0, n represents 2, and Z represents a CO_2R^6 group.

Claim 15 (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein: m and n each represent 1, R^3 represents OH, R^4 represents H and Z represents a CO_2R^6 group.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from: OH, halo, C_{1-3} alkoxy, halo-C_{1-3}alkoxy and phenyl, said phenyl being optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups, SO_2R^5, and 1-2 C_{1-3}alkyl or alkoxy groups optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups, and

(2) aryl optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; 1-2 C_{1-3}alkyl or alkoxy groups, each optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; $-NR^9R^{10}$ wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H or methyl; SCF_3 and heteroaryl; .

X represents CH_2;

one of a and b represent 1 and the other represents 0;

Y represents a ~~spiroC$_{4-8}$cycloalkyl group or a 5-6 membered spiroheterocyclic group containing 1 N atom,~~

~~said ring being optionally substituted with a C$_{1-6}$ alkyl group, which is optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups or 1 Phenyl ring that is optionally substituted with 1-2 halo, 1-2 C$_{1-3}$ alkyl or alkoxy groups, said alkyl and alkoxy substituents being further optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups;~~ spirocyclohexyl ring substituted with a C$_{1-4}$ group that is optionally substituted with a phenyl ring;

R^2 is H or C$_{1-3}$alkyl;

R^7 represents H or methyl;

m and n represent 0, and Z represents a 5-tetrazolyl group.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) C$_{1-6}$ alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from: OH, halo, C$_{1-3}$ alkoxy, halo-C$_{1-3}$alkoxy and phenyl, said phenyl being optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups, SO_2R^5, and 1-2 C$_{1-3}$alkyl or alkoxy groups optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups,

and

(2) ~~aryl~~phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; 1-2 C$_{1-3}$alkyl or alkoxy groups, each optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; $-NR^9R^{10}$ wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H or methyl; SCF_3 and heteroaryl;

X represents CH_2;

one of a and b represents 1 and the other represents 0;

Y represents a ~~spiroC$_{4-8}$cycloalkyl group,~~

~~said ring being optionally substituted with a C$_{1-6}$ alkyl group, which is optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups or 1 Phenyl ring that is optionally substituted with 1-2 halo, 1-2 C$_{1-3}$ alkyl or alkoxy groups, said alkyl and alkoxy substituents being further optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups;~~ spirocyclohexyl optionally substituted with a C$_{1-4}$ alkyl group that is optionally substituted with a phenyl ring;

R^2 is H or C$_{1-3}$alkyl;

R^7 represents H or methyl;

m represents 0, n represents 2, and Z represents a CO_2R^6 group.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:

(1) C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups selected from: OH, halo, C_{1-3} alkoxy, halo-C_{1-3}alkoxy and phenyl, said phenyl being optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups, SO_2R^5, and 1-2 C_{1-3}alkyl or alkoxy groups optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups, and

(2) aryl optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; 1-2 C_{1-3}alkyl or alkoxy groups, each optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups; $-NR^9R^{10}$ wherein R^9 and R^{10} are H or methyl; SCF_3 and heteroaryl; .

X represents CH_2;

one of a and b represents 1 and the other represents 0;

Y represents a spiroC_{4-8}cycloalkyl group or a 5-6 membered spiroheterocyclic group containing 1 N atom,

said ring being optionally substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group, which is optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups or 1 Phenyl ring that is optionally substituted with 1-2 halo, 1-2 C_{1-3} alkyl or alkoxy groups, said alkyl and alkoxy substituents being further optionally substituted with 1-3 halo groups;

R^2 is H or C_{1-3}alkyl;

R^7 represents H or methyl;

m and n each represent 1, R^3 represents OH, R^4 represents H and Z represents a CO_2R^6 group.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A compound in accordance with claim 1 selected from the following table:

TABLE 1

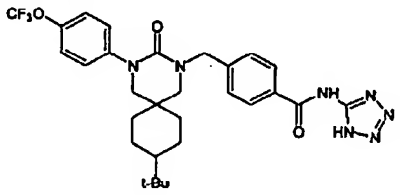
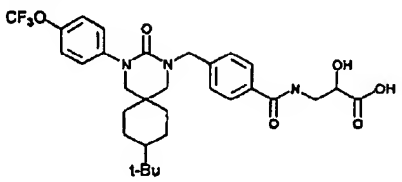
	Compound		Compound
			

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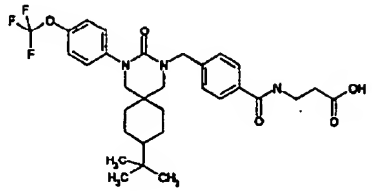
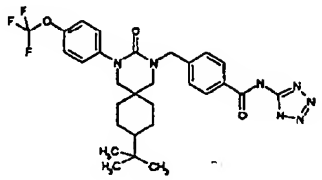
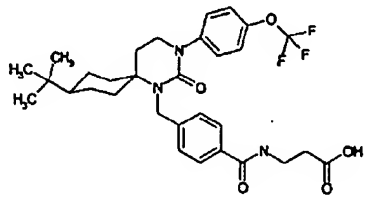
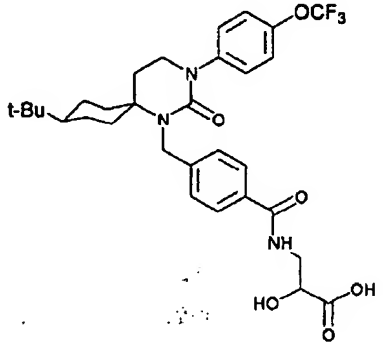
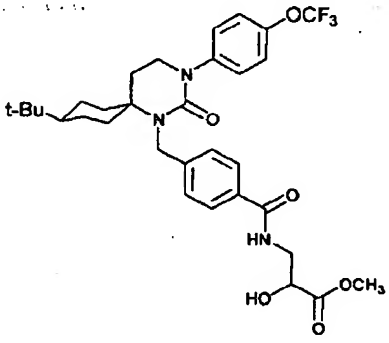
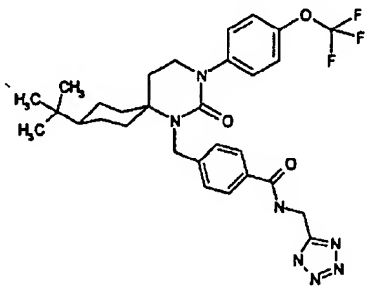
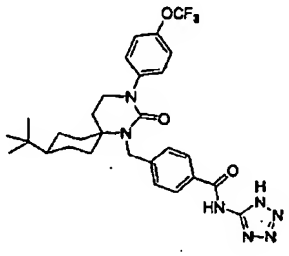
TABLE 1

	Compound		Compound
			
			
			
			

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

Claim 20 (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn) A method of treating type 2 diabetes mellitus in a mammalian patient in need of such treatment comprising administering to said patient a compound in accordance with claim 1 in an amount that is effective to treat said type 2 diabetes mellitus.